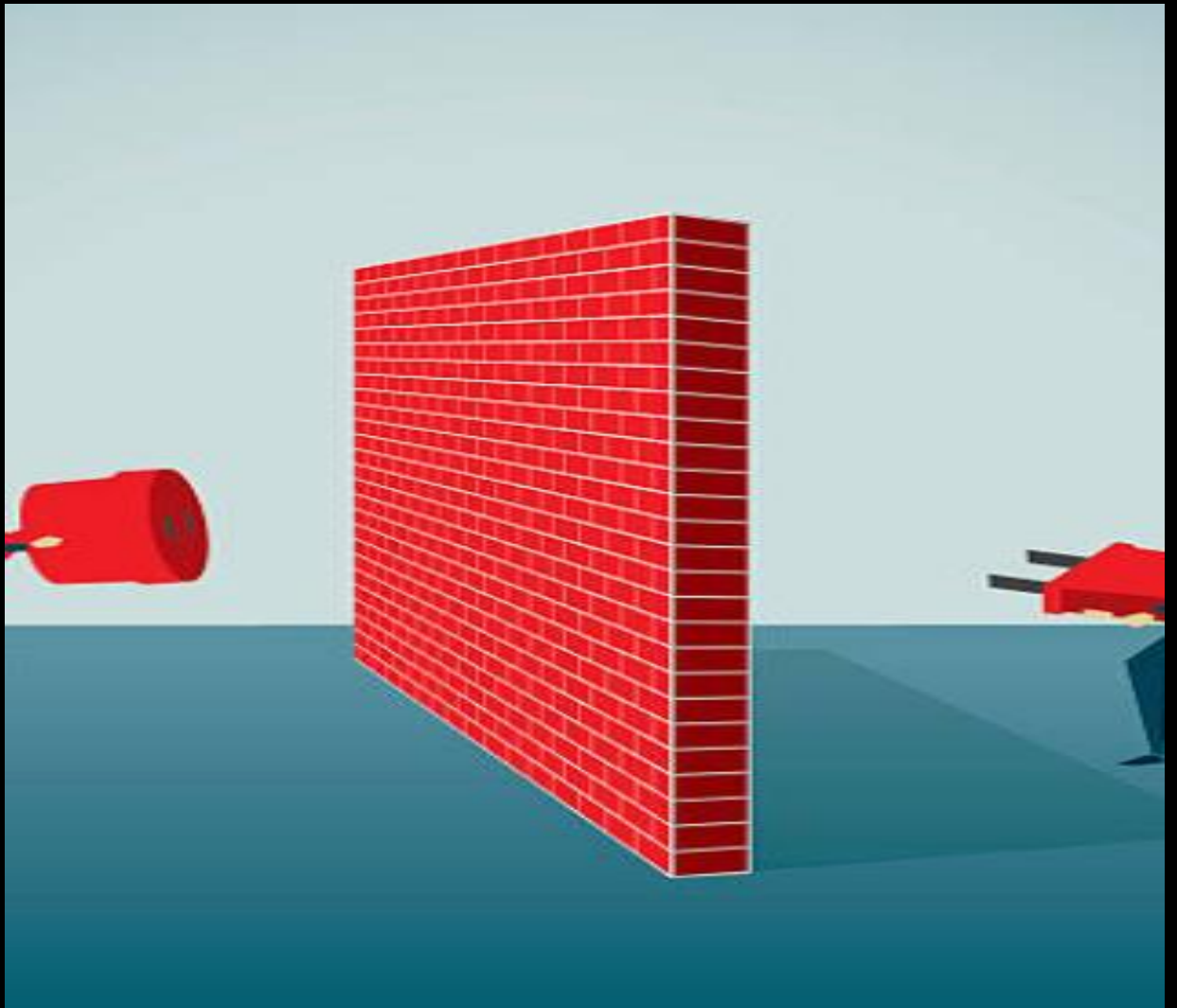


March 8

Isaiah 59:1-4

**“But Your
Iniquities”**



¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. ³ For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. ⁴ None

calleth for justice, nor
any pleadeth for truth:
they trust in **vanity**, and
speak **lies**; they
conceive **mischief**, and
bring forth **iniquity**.

It's not that God is
incapable of hearing
or helping; it's that
sins block the
needed connection.

Defiled hands,
iniquitous fingers,
lying lips, and

perverse tongues
have unplugged
some souls from the
source of
what *would be*
the flowing of
blessings.

This says: Yes, God
can do it. He's not
unable to reach you
and to save you. The
problem is not with

Him; it's with you!
God can, "but your
iniquities..." your
vanity, and
mischief—your
messy stuff has
separated you from
your God and has
caused him to not
intervene on your
behalf. Your mess
has created an anti-
God barrier.

From time to time, I
have questioned the
doctrinal soundness
of some of the older
songs such as, “Jesus
Can Work It Out”
and “God Can Do
Anything”. Maybe
those messages are
accurate, BUT
INIQUITIES,
according to this
scriptural passage,

are causing a gulf, a wall, between potential recipients and God's goodness.

Perhaps sometimes the problem is not an individual. Maybe the phrase, "but your iniquities" may apply to leaders within families, cities, or countries.

At any given time
and whatever the
specific situation, we
need to be clear that
iniquities are not
harmless. To the
contrary, they are
very damaging. And
though we may not
be able to stop or
repair what others
do, many of us are
able to pursue justice

and truth. We can
make sure that,
personally, we don't
trust in vanity, speak
lies, or start
mischief.

We can choose to not
be part of blaming
God for not showing
up or for not coming
through for us when

we are letting the
condition of “but
your iniquities”
operate due to our
own actions in our
own lives.